

Denver Service Center

Winter 2001

Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm has Dedication

The Colorado Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects has named the National Park Service Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm Restoration project the recipient of their award for Land Stewardship.

The restoration of the Jimmy Carter Boyhood Farm had its dedication ceremony last autumn, complete with Former President Carter on hand to offer his remarks on the project.

The project tells the story of how the 39th President of the United States was influenced by his upbringing on a rural southern farm in a predominantly African-American community.

Of the original 108-acre Carter Farm, the National Park Service retains 17 acres. Existing buildings on the property include the Carter home, the farm store, two farm workers' residences, and the barn with its associated outbuildings.

A team of landscape architects, architects, interpretive planners, exhibit designers, engineers and resource specialists worked on the restoration. The process began by conducting a search for historical materials that would reveal the character of the farm in 1937. In addition, oral interviews of President and Mrs. Carter regarding the



richness of the time were conducted.

Construction work restored the core historic area along Old Plains Highway where the farm buildings had been situated. Landscape features such as a windmill, tennis court, vegetable garden, and historic fence lines were reconstructed.

Restoring the farm to its circa 1937 condition meant not only recreating the physical appearance of the farm, but also restoring the function of the farm's features. 'Living history' educational programs explain the realities of pre-electrical farm life that included a blacksmith shop, milking shed, buggy shed and a hand-crank water well. ♦

DSC Planners receive APA Outstanding Federal Planning Award

The *American Planning Association (APA)* has chosen the National Park Service's Denver Service Center (DSC) as the recipient of their annual Outstanding Federal Planning Program Award.

"We are privileged to receive such a prestigious award on behalf of the National Park Service," stated Carol Whipple, Planning Leader at DSC. "This honor speaks to the quality of our products and the services we provide."

The DSC is the central office for planning and design services for the national park system. As such, the office provides a variety of services and products to advance the agenda of individual parks and monuments throughout the country and around the world.

A wide range of planning products and services were submitted within the nomination packet for DSC, including high quality newsletters that are an important aspect of the General Management Plan (GMP) process. One such

submitted newsletter was for the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. Another submitted example of DSC's planning products is the Visitor Experience and Resource Protection framework that is linked to the GMP and seeks to address questions regarding use and preservation.

Also included in the nomination packet for DSC is the *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Plan*. This plan will guide 200 environmental restoration projects in South Florida and represents projects that are out of the norm for DSC. The document is a holistic, integrated and adaptive approach to planning initiatives.

DSC also submitted the *Design Concept for the Visitor Learning Center* at Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary at the National Park of American Samoa as an example of a development concept plan. The document demonstrates how green technology meets the traditional vernacular in a historic district. The plan was conceived by using the charette process.

In addition to the award as the Outstanding Federal Planning Program, DSC also was given an honorable mention by the APA in the Area Development Plan Category for the Canyon View Information Plaza at the Grand Canyon and the Visitor Transit Center at Zion National Park. ♦



The South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Plan was one of the National Park Service planning documents submitted for the APA Award for Outstanding Federal Planning Program.

NPS Participates in International Green Building Challenge

Sustainable Building Conference held in the Netherlands

Representatives from the National Park Service participated in the Sustainable Building 2000 International Conference held in Maastricht, Netherlands last fall. The DSC-designed Zion National Park Visitor Center and Comfort Station was one of five structures selected to represent the United States at the event.

The conference was an international effort to evaluate and improve the performance of sustainable buildings that conserve natural resources and minimize energy use. The event will bring together professionals who specialize in sustainability from around the world, and establish international benchmarks for building performance. The DSC team presented a case study of the Zion facility in the Green Building Challenge at the conference.

The Green Building Challenge began as an international challenge among 16 countries to determine who had the 'greenest' buildings. It has since evolved into a cooperative process between nations to measure and promote energy efficiency and overall sustainability of structures. The ultimate goal of the challenge is to develop buildings that contribute to global sustainability.

The Zion National Park Visitor Center and Comfort Station is one of the National Park Service's most sustainable complexes. The facility consumes 70% less energy than conventional buildings and uses many energy efficient and renewable energy components such as passive solar heating, natural ventilation, daylighting, and photovoltaic energy generation. In fact, the utility meters for the Visitor Center can actually run in reverse (net-metering), selling energy back to the utility company.

A computer system ensures that all energy-efficient features of the building work together. For example, weather data is collected to assist in the energy decisions about the facility, and then a computer controls the cooling towers, radiant panels, lighting, and windows of the facility.



The Visitor Center at Zion National Park – A model for sustainable design practices in the National Park Service and throughout the world. "

Terry Emmons Honored by AIA

Receives Thomas Jefferson Award

NPS Associate Director Terry Emmons has been selected as the recipient of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) 2001 Thomas Jefferson Award for Public Architecture.

Mr. Emmons' prestigious award recognizes excellence in architectural advocacy and achievement in the public sector for managing and producing quality design within government agencies. The award will be conferred this May at the AIA National Convention and Expo in Denver.

Over a 29-year career with the federal government, Mr. Emmons has demonstrated unparalleled national and international leadership in the design of quality public architecture, emphasizing the application of sustainable design principles.

Mr. Emmons was selected NPS Associate Director, Professional Services, in 1999. Through new policies on design and A/E selection, he is revolutionizing how NPS applies sustainable design guidelines within the parks.

While with the Navy, Mr. Emmons was the chief architect of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), one of the largest federal agencies. Within NAVFAC, he established a design excellence program incorporating policies on the quality of innovative use of design build methodologies.

CONGRATULATIONS TERRY!

Black History Documents Available at the NPS Technical Information Center



The photo above is from the document entitled In Those Days, found within the holdings of the NPS Technical Information Center (TIC). The book is a tribute to the mostly unrecorded panorama of events and circumstances surrounding the lives and invaluable contributions of African Americans near the Savannah River.

Celebrate Black History Month by browsing through the many documents available through TIC. Some of the available holdings include: 'Black Writers in New England', 'African Meeting House', 'Underground Railroad Resources in the United States', 'Pre-Civil War Transportation Routes', and the 'Abolition Church Floor Plans'.

The TIC is the central repository for planning, design, and construction documents for the National Park Service, and also serves as an archival center. Visit on-line at <http://amoeba.nps.gov/Amoeba.nsf> or call 303-969-2130. "

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If you have ideas for future editions, please send them to: Donna_Drelick@nps.gov